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Senate Natural Resources Committee
In c/o Corey Woodby
Committee Clerk

Dear Committee Members:

As a veteran voter and resident of the Upper Peninsula, I'm writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bills 39 and 40. As a hunter and angler with more than 50 years of experience, I frequently use public lands to enjoy these recreational activities, as do many others. I appreciate and support the abundance of state owned lands available for recreational use in Michigan and do not want anything adopted that would jeopardize the quantity and quality of those lands.

Based on the information I have about Senate Bills 39 and 40, they would have negative impacts on maintaining the amount of public land currently available in this state as well as adding new parcels in the future. I do not want the amount of state owned lands reduced. I support adding more state owned lands to those already under management of the state DNR when and where possible.

I firmly believe that this state's abundant public lands are major benefits to both residents and nonresidents. That is one of the reasons I live here and I think those lands play an important role in attracting nonresidents to vacation in the state. After all, tourism is one of Michigan's most important industries.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Smith